

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-16 and 18-29 are pending; of these, claims 1-16 and 29 are under examination while claims 18-28 have been withdrawn as belong to a different restriction group. Applicants hereby amend claims 1 and 8, and cancel claims 18-29. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

Claims 1-16 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Applicants respectfully disagree.

The Examiner first regards the limitation “each branched polyhydroxy-functional polymer has been tethered to the base matrix at two or more points” as unclear. The Examiner states that it is unclear whether the limitation “tethered” means that each branched polyhydroxy-functional polymer has been actually attached to the matrix by forming at least two covalent bond links or attachment with the matrix, or it simply adhesively attaches to the matrix at more than two points and only forms one covalent bond. In response, Applicants submit that Applicants mean the former, and the claims have been amended to clarify this, as suggested by the Examiner.

The Examiner also regard the claim language “wherein the branched polyhydroxy-functional polymers having a degree of branching” as being awkward and requested revision of this language. In response, Applicants have amended the claim language to comply.

Claim 8 stand rejected for lack of proper antecedent basis for the term monomer. In response, Applicants have amended the claim rendering this rejection moot.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's finding that claims 1-16 are free of prior art. Applicants respectfully assert that the claims are now in allowable form and earnestly solicit the allowance of these claims.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

GE Healthcare Bio-Sciences Corp.

By: _____



Yonggang Ji
Reg. No.: 53,073
Agent for Applicants

GE Healthcare Bio-Sciences Corp.
800 Centennial Avenue
P. O. Box 1327
Piscataway, New Jersey 08855-1327

Tel: (732) 980-2875
Fax: (732) 457-8463

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being uploaded to the United States Patent and Trademark Office using the Electronic Filing System on March 13, 2008.

Signature: _____



Name: _____

Melissa Leck